Sum It Up

# How does it work?

You have students imagine they are placing a classified ad or sending a telegram, where every word used costs them money. Tell them each word costs 10 cents, and then tell them they can spend "so much." For instance, if you say they have $2.00 to spend, then that means they have to write a summary that has no more than 20 words. You can adjust the amount they have to spend, and therefore the length of the summary, according to the text they are summarizing.

You can use this strategy to have the students summarize:

1. A chapter or chapters
2. An article
3. A handout
4. A primary source
5. Etc.

[](javascript:edit(10503))

S u m I t U p

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NAME** | **DATE** |
| **TITLE of READING SELECTION** | |

1. Read the selection and underline the key words and main ideas. Write these in the blank area below where it says “Main Idea Words.”

2. At the bottom of this sheet, write a one-sentence summary of the article, using as many main idea words as you can. Imagine you only have $2.00, and each word you use will cost you 10 cents. See if you can “sum it up” in twenty words!

**Main Idea Words:**

*“Sum It Up” for* **$2.00**

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